

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:
a surface for supporting said infant,
an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,
at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and
a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said apparatus further comprises temperature sensing means for sensing the skin temperature of at least one position on said infant, the output of which is supplied to said controller or processor.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed claims 1 or 2 wherein said portion comprises at least one liquid crystal panel integrally formed with said cover.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 3 wherein the remainder of said cover excepting said portion is substantially visually opaque.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in either claim 1 or 2 wherein said cover is substantially composed of liquid crystal panels.
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein said cover includes a first access means for partial access to said infant.
7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 6 wherein said cover is configurable between a closed position in which it substantially seals against said surface and an open position for full access to said infant.
8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one radiant heater comprises an upper radiant element in proximity with said cover and a lower radiant element in proximity with said surface.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said upper radiant element comprises a resistive ink printed on the underside of said cover.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said surface includes a mattress being transparent to infra-red wave length radiant energy, said lower radiant element being located underneath said mattress.
11. (Original) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 10 wherein said lower radiant element comprises:

a housing means including a contact surface for contacting the underside of said

mattress,

one or more radiant heating elements disposed within the bulk of said housing means in a location spaced from said contact surface and,

an infrared radiation barrier means blocking infrared radiation from said elements in directions away from said contact surface; said housing means incorporating infrared transmission means between said elements and at least adjacent regions of said contact surface, and said adjacent regions of said contact surface being infrared transmissible also.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claims 10 or 11 wherein said temperature sensing means are disposed on the upper surface of said mattress which in use contacts with the skin of said infant and measuring the skin temperature thereof.

13. (Original) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 1 further comprising humidification means for providing humidified gases to said infant.

Claims 14-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:
a surface for supporting said infant,
an a rigid rounded upper cover configured to extend over said surface,
at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover,

a humidifier configured to provide humidified air within said cover,
a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such
that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a
predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover, and energise said humidifier to
substantially prevent insensible water loss from said infant.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim
20 wherein said apparatus further comprises temperature sensing means for sensing the skin
temperature of at least one position on said infant, the output of which is supplied to said
controller or processor.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim
21 wherein said cover is configurable between a closed position in which it substantially seals
against said surface and an open position for full access to said infant.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim
22 wherein said at least one radiant heater comprises an upper radiant element in proximity
with said cover and a lower radiant element in proximity with said surface.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim
23 wherein said upper radiant element comprises a resistive ink printed on the underside of
said cover.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heating an infant as claimed in claim 24 wherein said surface includes a mattress being transparent to infra-red wave length radiant energy, said lower radiant element being located underneath said mattress.

26. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:
a surface for supporting said infant,
a rigid upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,
at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and
a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.

27. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:
a surface for supporting said infant,
a rounded upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,
at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and

a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.

28. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:

a surface for supporting said infant,

a one piece upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,

at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover, and

a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.

29. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:

a surface for supporting said infant,

an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,

at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover configured to provide an even temperature distribution across said surface, and

a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.

30. (New) An apparatus for heating an infant comprising:

a surface for supporting said infant,

an upper cover configured to extend over said surface and including a substantial portion which may be configured to at least a substantially visually opaque state or a substantially visually transparent state,

at least one radiant heater integrated with, supported by, connected to or otherwise in immediate proximity to said cover distributed non-uniformly across said cover, and

a controller or processor configured to energise said at least one radiant heater such that in use the skin temperature of said infant is regulated substantially within a predetermined range whilst enclosed by said cover in said visibly opaque state.